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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY,
DAIRY DIVISION.

FEED MORE LEGUMES—LESS GRAIN—TO DAIRY COWS.

“Economize on grain” is the slogan of the country. That means less grain for live stock. National necessity requires that human beings be fed first, and milk production therefore must be maintained, or necessary food will not be available. Substitutes, then, must be used as far as possible in place of grain for dairy cows. Clover, alfalfa, cowpeas, soy-bean, velvet-bean, or other legume hay, when fed with good silage, will maintain a medium milk production at a relatively low cost.

At the Illinois experiment station the milk flow was slightly increased when 8 pounds of alfalfa hay was substituted for an equal weight of concentrates. The Alabama station increased the net profits by substituting cowpea hay for wheat bran. When an 11-pound grain ration and 5 pounds of mixed hay were displaced by an equal weight of clover hay, at the New Jersey station, the milk flow fell from 23.8 to 20.1 pounds, but the net profits were increased. In these trials the cows were also fed first-class corn silage. Under ordinary farm conditions it is not to be expected that legume hay can take the place of the entire grain ration, but if it is substituted in part, large quantities of grain will be released for human food.

The first step in bringing this condition about must be the planting of more legumes, and the sooner this is done the better it will be for the individual dairyman as well as for his State and the Nation. Every dairy farm should produce at least one ton of legume hay for each cow on the place. It is not yet too late to produce additional legumes this year, and it is none too early to make plans for fall planting, so that next year our milk supply may be maintained by furnishing our dairy cattle, in addition to a liberal allowance of silage, an abundance of legume hay.

Will you do your share? Will you produce one ton of legume hay for each cow on your place?

If you do not know what legumes are best adapted to your locality, or how to grow them, apply immediately to your agricultural college or to the United States Department of Agriculture.

